



Connecticut Family
Literacy Initiative

F A M I L Y

Where Learning Grows



Every Family Every Day

Family Literacy is used during day-to-day activities to help adults and children “get things done” ... like using drawings or writing to communicate; keeping records; making lists; reading and following directions; or sharing stories and messages through conversation. **Family Literacy is family learning** and involves everyone in your family. Everyday activities are a great way to learn. It doesn't take a lot of time and the payoffs are big. Family Literacy is as important as anything you do in your life.

It's Fun

Learning can be fun, and having fun can help you learn. Lighten up ... humor and laughter are essential for healthy minds, bodies and relationships.

You're Already Doing It

You help your child learn as you go about your daily routines. Encouraging your child to talk at dinner, while you're running errands and doing chores is one simple way you stimulate your child's thinking. Look inside for more ideas.

There's Something for Everyone

Family Literacy is about reading and so much more. Family learning activities reflect your family's culture. Adults and children use literacy to achieve their goals and become more successful.



It's Important

Children need their family's help to succeed in school and in life. Adults need to keep building their skills to keep pace with a changing world. Literacy is the bridge to success, and families help build it.

Get Cooking!

Make daily tasks a time for learning. Family Literacy is planning a menu or grocery list with your child. Turn everyday chores into family learning ... and get things done!

- Read a cereal box or milk carton at breakfast.
- Clip coupons. Talk about how much a coupon saves.
- Use a newspaper or thermometer to check the weather, then figure out what to wear today.
- Calculate how many gallons of gas your car needs and how much it will cost to fill it up.
- Use laundry time for math and science activities like measuring detergent and folding towels in $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$. Talk about why you use hot or cold water.
- Write notes to put in backpacks and pockets. A kind word or funny joke lets them know you care.
- Compare food labels in the grocery store. Who's favorite item has the most nutrition? the least fat?



That's Entertainment!

Use your imagination. Jazz up family time.... You might find hidden talents!

- Make your own musical instrument out of things around the house.
- Draw what you did today.
- Create a family talent show, skit or play.
- Watch a movie and talk about it. Be your own movie critic and develop a family rating system.
- Sing a good morning song.
- Plan a family outing to a zoo, concert or museum. Check local newspapers or magazines for ideas.
- Read about your favorite animals or artists at the library or on the Internet.
- Use a fun book to set the stage for a family meal.



When was the last time you had green eggs and ham for dinner or made Mickey Mouse pancakes?

Make a Game of it!

Family Literacy should be fun. Games are everywhere! Try something new for the whole family so everybody learns.

- Plan a fantasy vacation. Look at maps, travel books and magazines.
- Follow your favorite sport. Look up your team's scores in the newspaper. Turn down the sound on the TV and try your own "play-by-play."
- Bring out the old favorites.... Play cards, board games, 20 questions or hang man. Make up a jump rope song or draw a hopscotch board.
- Make your own crossword puzzles, word searches and word jumbles.
- Take a walk in your neighborhood. Read the street signs, and make a map when you get home.
- Play bank, store or restaurant using blank deposit slips, coupons or empty food containers. Children learn that all careers use reading and writing.



Talk it up!

Keep the conversation going. Focus on positive comments. Talking about things other than the “here and now” helps children’s brains grow.

- Read the TV guide and plan a schedule together. Talk about what you like and don’t like about a program.
- Make a family scrapbook, photo album or memory box. Tell stories about your family history and how they came to Connecticut.
- Tell a story about your day over dinner. What is the best thing that happened today? the funniest?
- Read a story together as a family and take turns reading sections.
- Talk frequently with your child’s teacher about school goals, class activities and your child’s progress.
- Talk with your kids about their activities and friends. Parent involvement helps keep kids in school and off drugs.



And Don't For

- Get a good night's sleep and be ready for school or work.
- Let children see you reading. You are their model.
- Get a library card for every member of the family and use it! Libraries have lots of fun family programs.
- Read lots of different things—catalogs, menus, signs and other everyday items. Show kids how reading and writing are all around us.
- Keep a variety of writing materials around the house—markers, pens, pencils, old greeting cards, envelopes and note pads. It's OK for children to use a computer or typewriter to write.
- Give books as presents so books become special and pleasurable.



get the Basics

- Spend time with each child every day. Do things together and talk about them: shopping, zoos, museums, concerts, worship services, library, sports and hobbies.
- Listen to your children so that you learn about their lives and show that you are interested in them.
- Display children's work in a prominent place to make them feel good about themselves.
- Show children you value their efforts and that what they do is important. Tell your kids that they have done a good job, and you may hear the same from them someday.
- Remember ... Family Literacy is not just about kids, but about adults, too!



Want to do more?

Call Infoline at 2-1-1 and ask for information on programs near you. Family Resource Centers, early childhood programs, adult education, Literacy Volunteers, Even Start programs and libraries are possible resources for you. Infoline will be glad to let you know what is available depending on your family's needs. Remember, everyone in your family needs to read and read well. There are programs that can help every family member continue learning. And that's what family learning is all about.

The background is a solid purple color. Overlaid on this background are several stylized, light purple line-art illustrations. These include several open books with visible pages, some of which are slightly tilted or overlapping. Interspersed among the books are various leaf-like shapes, some of which resemble flames or stylized foliage. The overall composition is centered and has a clean, modern aesthetic.

**What You
Do at
Home
Makes a
Difference!**



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A publication of the Connecticut Statewide Family Literacy Initiative, the American Savings Foundation and Fox 61 WTIC-TV.
Connecticut's Family Literacy Initiative is supported by an Even Start grant from the U.S. Department of Education.